



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/788,715	02/27/2004	Jayasri Gunaratnam	0108-0255/2	6776
33787	7590	04/09/2007	EXAMINER	
JOHN J. OSKOREP, ESQ.			YOUNG, JANELLEN	
ONE MAGNIFICENT MILE CENTER				
980 N. MICHIGAN AVE.			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
SUITE 1400				
CHICAGO, IL 60611			2618	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		04/09/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/788,715	GUNARATNAM ET AL.
	Examiner Janelle N. Young	Art Unit 2618

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 December 2006.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-50 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-50 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 27 February 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-50 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Response to Amendment

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-45, 47, & 49-50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable by Abrahamson et al. (US Pub 2004/0109431) and further in view of Zhao (US Pub 2005-0059397).

As for claim 1, Abrahamson et al. teaches a network selection method for a mobile station, comprising:

selecting and operating with a RPLMN or VPLMN; which reads on claimed non-home communication network, (Abstract; Page 2, para 0015; and Page 7, para 0089 of Abrahamson et al.);

in response to regaining signal coverage from an out-of-coverage condition with the communication network, or in response to being powered-on

from a powered-off state entered while operating with non-home communication network (Page 3, para 0040-0042; Page 4, para 0053-0054; and Page 5, para 0070 of Abrahamson et al.), performing the following acts of:

if a RPLMN or VPLMN; which reads on claimed non-home communication network, of the mobile station is identified as being available selecting and operating with the home communication network; and otherwise, if the non-home communication network is identified as being available selecting and operating with the non-home communication network (Abstract; Page 4, para 0046; Page 6-7, para 0085; and Page 7, para 0087 of Abrahamson et al.).

Abrahamson et al. does not specifically disclose an operation that perform to identify a plurality of a wireless communication networks available in a coverage area of the mobile device.

Zhao discloses a network selection method for a mobile station, comprising of identifying a plurality of communication networks in coverage area within which the mobile station is operating (Abstract; Page 1, Para 0008; Page 2, Para 0015; Page 5; Para 0042; Page 6, Para 0045; Page 7, Para 0054; and Pages 7-8, Para 0056 of Zhao).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skills in the art at the time of invention to modify the system of Abrahamson et al. by incorporating the teachings of Zhao and consequently providing receiving, from the step of scanning, a plurality of mobile network code (MNC) and MCC pairs associated with the plurality of communications networks, motivation being for the purpose of allowing the selection

process to Compare the list of MNC and MCC pairs and accurately identify the home MCC network (Page 6, Para 0045 of Zhao in correspondence to Page 5, Para 0066 of Abrahamson et al.).

As for claim 2, Abrahamson et al. teaches a network selection method for a mobile station, wherein the non-home communication network comprises a Registered Public Land Mobile Network (RPLMN) during the method (Page 3, para 0041 and Page 4, para 0054 of Abrahamson et al.).

As for claim 3, Abrahamson et al. teaches a network selection method for a mobile station, wherein the home communication network comprises a Home Public Land Mobile Network (HPLMN) of the mobile station (Page 5, para 0066-0068 & 0072 and Page 6, para 0074 & 0083 of Abrahamson et al.).

As for claim 4, Abrahamson et al. teaches a network selection method for a mobile station, further comprising: otherwise, if the non-home communication network is identified as being unavailable by the scanning, selecting and operating with an alternate communication network based on a prioritized network list (Page 2, para 0026 and Page 5, para 0067 of Abrahamson et al.).

As for claim 5, Abrahamson et al. teaches a network selection method for a mobile station, wherein the act of scanning comprises receiving a Mobile Country Code (MCC) and Mobile Network Code (MNC) pair for each communication network available in the coverage area (Page 5, para 0066 of Abrahamson et al.).

As for claim 6, Abrahamson et al. teaches a network selection method for a mobile station, wherein the communication networks are operative in accordance with

Global Systems for Mobile Communications (GSM) (Abstract; Page 1, para 0003; and Page 3, para 0031 & 0040).

As for claim 7, Abrahamson et al. teaches a mobile station, comprising:

 a wireless transceiver; an antenna coupled to the wireless transceiver (Page 6, para 0081-0082 of Abrahamson et al.);
 one or more processors coupled to the wireless transceiver (Page 6, para 0083 and Page 7, para 0091 of Abrahamson et al.);

 the one or more processors being configured to select a non-home communication network with which to communicate by:

 selecting and operating with a non-home communication network (Abstract; Page 2, Para 0015; and Page 7, Para 0089 of Abrahamson et al.);

in response to regaining signal coverage from an out-of-coverage condition with the communication network, or in response to being powered-on from a powered-off state entered while operating with non-home communication network (Page 3, Para 0040-0042; Page 4, Para 0053-0054; and Page 5, Para 0070 of Abrahamson et al. of Abrahamson et al.), performing the following acts of:

 if a home non-home communication network of the mobile station is identified as being available selecting and operating with the home communication network; and otherwise, if the non-home communication network is identified as being available selecting

and operating with the non-home communication network (Abstract;
Page 4, Para 0046; Page 6-7, Para 0085; and Page 7, Para 0087
of Abrahamson et al.).

Abrahamson et al. does not specifically disclose an operation that perform to identify a plurality of a wireless communication networks available in a coverage area of the mobile device.

Zhao discloses a network selection method for a mobile station, comprising of identifying a plurality of communication networks in coverage area within which the mobile station is operating (Abstract; Page 1, Para 0008; Page 2, Para 0015; Page 5; Para 0042; Page 6, Para 0045; Page 7, Para 0054; and Pages 7-8, Para 0056 of Zhao).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skills in the art at the time of invention to modify the system of Abrahamson et al. by incorporating the teachings of Zhao and consequently providing receiving, from the step of scanning, a plurality of mobile network code (MNC) and MCC pairs associated with the plurality of communications networks, motivation being for the purpose of allowing the selection process to Compare the list of MNC and MCC pairs and accurately identify the home MCC network (Page 6, Para 0045 of Zhao in correspondence to Page 5, Para 0066 of Abrahamson et al.).

Regarding claim 8, see explanation as set forth regarding claim 2 (network selection method claim) because the claimed mobile station would perform the network selection method steps.

Regarding claim 9, see explanation as set forth regarding claim 3 (network selection method claim) because the claimed mobile station would perform the network selection method steps.

Regarding claim 10, see explanation as set forth regarding claim 4 (network selection method claim) because the claimed mobile station would perform the network selection method steps.

Regarding claim 11, see explanation as set forth regarding claim 5 (network selection method claim) because the claimed mobile station would perform the network selection method steps.

Regarding claim 12, see explanation as set forth regarding claim 6 (network selection method claim) because the claimed mobile station would perform the network selection method steps.

As for claim 13, Abrahamson et al. teaches a communication system, comprising:

a first communication network; a second communication network; one or more mobile stations, which are operable with the first and the second communication networks (Page 2, para 0015 and Page 7, para 0089 of Abrahamson et al.);

the one or more mobile stations having the first communication designated as a non-home communication network and the second non-home communication network designated as a RPLMN or VPLMN; which reads on

claimed non-home communication network, (Page 5, para 0066 with respect to Page 7, para 0089 of Abrahamson et al.);

the one or more mobile stations being operative to select a communication network with which to communicate by:

selecting and operating with a RPLMN or VPLMN; which reads on claimed non-home communication network, (Abstract; Page 2, Para 0015; and Page 7, Para 0089 of Abrahamson et al.);

in response to regaining signal coverage from an out-of-coverage condition with the communication network, or in response to being powered-on from a powered-off state entered while operating with non-home communication network (Page 3, Para 0040-0042; Page 4, Para 0053-0054; and Page 5, Para 0070 of Abrahamson et al.), performing the following acts of:

if a second communication network of the mobile station is identified as being available selecting and operating with the second communication network; and otherwise, if the non-home communication network is identified as being available selecting and operating with the first communication network (Abstract; Page 4, Para 0046; Page 6-7, Para 0085; and Page 7, Para 0087 of Abrahamson et al.).

Abrahamson et al. does not specifically disclose an operation that performs to identify a plurality of wireless communication networks available in a coverage area of the mobile device.

Zhao discloses a network selection method for a mobile station, comprising of identifying a plurality of communication networks in coverage area within which the mobile station is operating (Abstract; Page 1, Para 0008; Page 2, Para 0015; Page 5; Para 0042; Page 6, Para 0045; Page 7, Para 0054; and Pages 7-8, Para 0056 of Zhao).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skills in the art at the time of invention to modify the system of Abrahamson et al. by incorporating the teachings of Zhao and consequently providing receiving, from the step of scanning, a plurality of mobile network code (MNC) and MCC pairs associated with the plurality of communications networks, motivation being for the purpose of allowing the selection process to compare the list of MNC and MCC pairs and accurately identify the home MCC network (Page 6, Para 0045 of Zhao in correspondence to Page 5, Para 0066 of Abrahamson et al.).

Regarding claim 14, see explanation as set forth regarding claim 2 (network selection method claim) because the claimed communication system would perform the network selection method steps.

Regarding claim 15, see explanation as set forth regarding claim 3 (network selection method claim) because the claimed communication system would perform the network selection method steps.

Regarding claim 16, see explanation as set forth regarding claim 4 (network selection method claim) because the claimed communication system would perform the network selection method steps.

Regarding claim 17, see explanation as set forth regarding claim 5 (network selection method claim) because the claimed communication system would perform the network selection method steps.

As for claim 18, Abrahamson et al. teaches a network selection method for a mobile station, comprising:

receiving a user input for manually selecting a non-home communication network for communication with the mobile station in a manual network selection mode of the mobile station; selecting and operating with the manually-selected non-home communication network in response to the user input (Page 5, Para 0069-0070 and Page 7, Para 0088 of Abrahamson et al.);

in response to regaining signal coverage from an out-of-coverage condition with manually-selected non-home the communication network while in the manual network selection mode, or in response to being powered-on from a powered-off state while in the manual network selection mode, (Page 3, para 0040-0042; Page 4, para 0053-0054; and Page 5, para 0069-0070 of Abrahamson et al.), performing the following acts of:

if a non-home communication network is identified as being available selecting and operating with the non-home

communication network; if the non-home communication network is unavailable and the home communication network s also unavailable: causing a list of available communication network to be displayed for a manual network selection procedure for manual network s selection and operation with one of the available communication networks: and if the non-home communication network is unavailable but the home communication network is identified as being available: instead of carrying out the manual network selection procedure for the manual network selection and operation with one of the available communication networks, selecting and operation with the home communication network (Abstract; Page 2, Para 0015; Page 4, Para 0046; Page 6-7, Para 0085; and Page 7, Para 0087 in respect to Page 5, Para 0062, 0069, & 0072 and Page 7, Para 0088 of Abrahamson et al.).

Regarding claim 19, see explanation as set forth regarding claim 3 (network selection method claim) because the claimed mobile station would perform the network selection method steps.

Regarding claim 20, see explanation as set forth regarding claim 2 (network selection method claim) because the claimed mobile station would perform the network selection method steps.

Regarding claim 21, see explanation as set forth regarding claim 6 (network selection method claim) because the claimed mobile station would perform the network selection method steps.

As for claim 22, Abrahamson et al. teaches a network selection method for a mobile station, further comprising:

in response to the visual input prompt for the manual network selection procedure, receiving a user input for manually selecting the home communication network; and in response to the user input, registering and operating with the available communication network (Page 5, para 0069-0070 and Page 7, para 0088 of Abrahamson et al.).

As for claim 23, Abrahamson et al. teaches a mobile station, comprising:

a user interface (Fig 1a-c:150a-c and Page 7, para 0088 of Abrahamson et al.);

a wireless transceiver; an antenna coupled to the wireless transceiver (Page 6, para 0081-0082 of Abrahamson et al.);

one or more processors coupled to the wireless transceiver (Page 6, para 0083 and Page 7, para 0091 of Abrahamson et al.);

the one or more processors being configured to provide for the selection of communication network by:

receiving a user input for manually selecting a non-home communication network for communication with the mobile station in a manual network selection mode of the mobile station; selecting and operating with the manually-selected

non-home communication network in response to the user input (Page 5, Para 0069-0070 and Page 7, Para 0088 of Abrahamson et al.);

in response to regaining signal coverage from an out-of-coverage condition with manually-selected non-home the communication network while in the manual network selection mode, or in response to being powered-on from a powered-off state while in the manual network selection mode (Page 3, Para 0040-0042; Page 4, Para 0053-0054; and Page 5, Para 0069-0070 of Abrahamson et al.), performing the following acts of:

if a non-home communication network is identified as being available selecting and operating with the non-home communication network; if the non-home communication network is unavailable and the home communication network is also unavailable: causing a list of available communication network to be displayed for a manual network selection procedure for manual network s selection and operation with one of the available communication networks: and if the non-home communication network is unavailable but the home communication network is identified as being available: instead of carrying out the manual network selection procedure for the manual network selection and operation with one of the available communication networks, selecting and operation with the home communication network

(Abstract; Page 4, Para 0046; Page 6-7, Para 0085; and Page 7, Para 0087 in respect to Page 5, Para 0062, 0069, & 0072 and Page 7, Para 0088 of Abrahamson et al.).

Regarding claim 24, see explanation as set forth regarding claim 19 (network selection method claim) because the claimed mobile station would perform the network selection method steps.

Regarding claim 25, see explanation as set forth regarding claim 20 (network selection method claim) because the claimed mobile station would perform the network selection method steps.

Regarding claim 26, see explanation as set forth regarding claim 21 (network selection method claim) because the claimed mobile station would perform the network selection method steps.

Regarding claim 27, see explanation as set forth regarding claim 22 (network selection method claim) because the claimed mobile station would perform the network selection method steps.

As for claim 28, Abrahamson et al. teaches a communication system, comprising:

a first communication network; a second communication network; one or more mobile stations which are operable with the first and the second communication networks (Page 2, para 0015 and Page 7, para 0089 of Abrahamson et al.);

one or more stations having the first communication network designated as a non-home communication network and the second communication designated as a home communication network (Page 6, para 0083 and Page 7, para 0091 of Abrahamson et al.);

the one or more processors being configured to provide for the selection of a communication network by:

receiving a user input for manually selecting a non-home communication network for communication with the mobile station in a manual network selection mode of the mobile station; selecting and operating with the manually-selected non-home communication network in response to the user input (Page 5, Para 0069-0070 and Page 7, Para 0088 of Abrahamson et al.);

in response to regaining signal coverage from an out-of-coverage condition with manually-selected non-home the communication network while in the manual network selection mode, or in response to being powered-on from a powered-off state while in the manual network selection mode (Page 3, Para 0040-0042; Page 4, Para 0053-0054; and Page 5, Para 0069-0070 of Abrahamson et al.), performing the following acts of:

if a non-home communication network is identified as being available selecting and operating with the non-home communication network; if the first communication network is unavailable and the home communication network s also

unavailable: causing a list of available communication networks to be displayed for a manual network selection procedure for manual network s selection and operation with one of the available communication networks; and if the first communication network is unavailable but the home communication network is identified as being available: instead of carrying out the manual network selection procedure for the manual network selection and operation with one of the available communication networks, selecting and operation with the second communication network (Abstract; Page 4, Para 0046; Page 6-7, Para 0085; and Page 7, Para 0087 in respect to Page 5, Para 0062, 0069, & 0072 and Page 7, Para 0088 of Abrahamson et al.).

Regarding claim 29, see explanation as set forth regarding claim 19 (network selection method claim) because the claimed communication system would perform the network selection method steps.

Regarding claim 30, see explanation as set forth regarding claim 20 (network selection method claim) because the claimed communication system would perform the network selection method steps.

Regarding claim 31, see explanation as set forth regarding claim 21 (network selection method claim) because the claimed communication system would perform the network selection method steps.

Regarding claim 32, see explanation as set forth regarding claim 22 (network selection method claim) because the claimed mobile station communication system the network selection method steps.

As for claim 33 (New), Abrahamson et al. teaches a network selection method for a mobile station, wherein the performing of the acts are caused in response to regaining signal coverage from an out-of-coverage condition with the non-home communication network (Abstract; Page 4, Para 0046; Page 5, Para 0069-0070; Page 6-7, Para 0083-0085; and Page 7, Para 0087-0091 of Abrahamson et al.).

As for claim 34 (New), Abrahamson et al. teaches a network selection method for a mobile station, wherein the performing of the acts are caused in response to being powered-on from a powered-off state entered while operating with non-home communication network (Page 3, Para 0040-0042; Page 4, Para 0053-0054; and Page 5, Para 0070 of Abrahamson et al.).

As for claim 35 (New), Abrahamson et al. teaches a network selection method for a mobile station, wherein the act of identifying comprises the further act of scanning with use of a wireless transceiver, and the acts of operating with the non-home and the home communication networks utilize the same wireless transceiver (Abstract; Page 4, Para 0046; Page 5, Para 0069-0070; Page 6-7, Para 0083-0085; and Page 7, Para 0087-0091 of Abrahamson et al.).

As for claim 36 (New), Abrahamson et al. teaches a network selection method for a mobile station, which is performed as a part of an automatic network selection

procedure of the mobile station (Page 5, Para 0068; Page 6, Para 0081-0083; and Page 7, Para 0089-0091).

Regarding claim 37, see explanation as set forth regarding claim 33 (network selection method claim) because the claimed mobile station would perform the same method steps.

Regarding claim 38, see explanation as set forth regarding claim 34 (network selection method claim) because the claimed mobile station would perform the same method steps.

As for claim 39 (New), Abrahamson et al. teaches a mobile station, wherein the one or more processors are configured to operate with the non-home and the home communication networks utilize the same wireless transceiver (Abstract; Page 4, Para 0046; Page 5, Para 0069-0070; Page 6-7, Para 0083-0085; and Page 7, Para 0087-0091 of Abrahamson et al.).

As for claim 40 (New), Abrahamson et al. teaches a mobile station, wherein the one or more processors are configured to select the communication network with which to communicate as part of an automatic network selection procedure of the mobile station (Page 5, Para 0068; Page 6, Para 0081-0083; and Page 7, Para 0089-0091).

Regarding claim 41, see explanation as set forth regarding claim 33 (network selection method claim) because the claimed mobile station would perform the same method steps.

Regarding claim 42, see explanation as set forth regarding claim 34 (network selection method claim) because the claimed communication system would perform the same method steps.

As for claim 43 (New), Abrahamson et al. teaches a communication system, comprising:

wherein the mobile station is configured to operate with the non-home and the home communication networks utilize the same wireless transceiver (Abstract; Page 4, Para 0046; Page 5, Para 0069-0070; Page 6-7, Para 0083-0085; and Page 7, Para 0087-0091 of Abrahamson et al.);

wherein the mobile station is configured to perform of the acts are caused in response to regaining signal coverage from an out-of-coverage condition with the non-home communication network (Abstract; Page 4, Para 0046; Page 5, Para 0069-0070; Page 6-7, Para 0083-0085; and Page 7, Para 0087-0091 of Abrahamson et al.);

wherein the mobile station is configured to perform of the acts are caused in response to regaining signal coverage from an out-of-coverage condition with the non-home communication network, (Abstract; Page 4, Para 0046; Page 5, Para 0069-0070; Page 6-7, Para 0083-0085; and Page 7, Para 0087-0091 of Abrahamson et al.).

As for claim 44 (New), Abrahamson et al. teaches a network selection method for a mobile station, wherein , in causing of the acts to be performed in response to regaining signal coverage or being powered-on, the acts of selecting and operating with

the non-hone and the home communication networks are performed by the mobile in the manual network selection mode without use intervention (Page 3, Para 0040-0042; Page 4, Para 0053-0054; and Page 5, Para 0070 in respect to Page 5, Para 0069-0070 and Page 7, Para 0088 of Abrahamson et al.).

As for claim 45 (New), Abrahamson et al. teaches a network selection method for a mobile station, comprising:

prior to selecting and operating with the home communication network, causing a visual input to be displayed for manual network selection (Page 7, Para 0088 of Abrahamson et al.).

As for claim 47 (New), Abrahamson et al. teaches a network selection method for a mobile station, further comprising:

prior to selecting and operating with the home communication network: causing a visual input to be displayed for manual network selection of the home communication network (Page 7, Para 0088 of Abrahamson et al.); and wherein the act of selecting and operating with the home communication network is performed in response to receiving the manual network selection of the home communication network via the visual input prompt (Abstract; Page 2, Para 0015; and Page 7, Para 0089 in correspondence with Page 7, Para 0088 of Abrahamson et al.).

As for claim 49 (New), Abrahamson et al. teaches a mobile station, wherein, in causing of the acts to be performed in response to regaining signal coverage or being powered-on, the acts of selecting and operating with the non-hone and the home

communication networks are performed by the mobile in the manual network selection mode without use intervention (Page 3, Para 0040-0042; Page 4, Para 0053-0054; and Page 5, Para 0070 in respect to Page 5, Para 0069-0070 and Page 7, Para 0088 of Abrahamson et al.).

As for claim 50, Abrahamson et al. teaches a network selection for use by a mobile station, comprising the acts of:

identifying, in a coverage area within which the mobile station is operating, one or more Public Land Mobile Network (PLMN) which are operative in accordance with Global Systems for Mobile Communications (GSM); (Abstract; Page 1, Para 0003; and Page 3, Para 0031 & 0040 of Abrahamson et al.)

selecting and operating with a non-home, Registered Public Land Mobile Network (RPLMN) (Page 3, Para 0041 and Page 4, Para 0054 of Abrahamson et al.);

in response to regaining signal coverage from an out-of-coverage condition with the non-home RPLMN (Abstract; Page 4, Para 0046; Page 5, Para 0069-0070; Page 6-7, Para 0083-0085; and Page 7, Para 0087-0091 of Abrahamson et al.), or in response to being powered-on from a powered-off state entered while operating with non-home RPLMN, performing the following acts of:

if a Home PLMN (HPLMN) of the mobile station is identified as being available, selecting and operating with HPLMN; (Page 5, Para 0066-0068 & 0072 and Page 6, Para 0074 & 0083 of Abrahamson et al.) and

if the HPLMN is unavailable and the non-home RPLMN is identified as being available, selecting and operating with the non-home RPLMN.

2. Claims 46 & 48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable by Abrahamson et al. (US Pub 2004/0109431) and Zhao (US Pub 2005-0059397) and further in view of Johannesson et al. (US Pub 2002/0119774).

Abrahamson et al. teaches a network selection method for a mobile station, comprising: selecting and operating with a RPLMN or VPLMN; which reads on claimed non-home communication network, (Abstract; Page 2, Para 0015; and Page 7, Para 0089 of Abrahamson et al.); in response to regaining signal coverage from an out-of-coverage condition with the communication network, or in response to being powered-on from a powered-off state entered while operating with non-home communication network (Page 3, Para 0040-0042; Page 4, Para 0053-0054; and Page 5, Para 0070 of Abrahamson et al.). In addition, As for claim 48 (New), Abrahamson et al. teaches a network selection method for a mobile station, further comprising of the prior to selecting and operating with the home communication network, causing a visual input to be displayed for manual network selection (Page 7, Para 0088 of Abrahamson et al.);

Abrahamson et al. and Zhao do not specifically disclose the act of selecting and operating with the home communication network is performed after an expiration of a predetermined time period.

As for claim 46 & 48 (New), Johannesson et al. teaches a network selection method for a mobile station, wherein the act of selecting and operating with the home

communication network is performed after an expiration of a predetermined time period (Page 1, Para 0004 & 0014 and Page 2, Para 0018-0019 of Johannesson et al.)

However, It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skills in the art at the time of invention to modify the system of Abrahamson et al. by incorporating the teachings of Johannesson et al., because Abrahamson et al. discusses the terminal has not operated on a particular W-CDMA network for a particular period of time (Page 5, Para 0061 & 0067-0068 of Abrahamson et al.). Johannesson et al. discusses the expiration of the HPLMN timer causes the mobile station to search for its home public land mobile network (Page 1, Para 0004 & 0014 and Page 2, Para 0018-0019 of Johannesson et al.)

The motivation of this combination would be to provide the method, mobile station and system of Johannesson by providing a periodic timer to allow scanning and identifying after the expiration of the periodic timer, and consequently providing automatic periodic scanning and searching; which would have been well known in the art.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Reynolds et al. (US Patent 6826414) teaches a public mobile communications network is configured in accordance with an established protocol which includes a private network portion to which only a selected set of mobile stations have access. The

selected set of mobile stations has a private network identity code which is different from a public network identity code. A base transceiver station of the private network portion broadcasts the private network identity code on its broadcast control channel. A mobile switching center prevents public subscriber mobile stations from registering via the private network portion, while the private subscriber mobile stations are allowed to register over the entire network.

Otting et al. (US Patent 6567663) teaches a mobile station (MS) of a cellular radiotelephone system, a method of searching for the MS's home public land mobile network (HPLMN) when the MS is camped on a non-HPLMN. The method is performed in thirty second intervals while the MS is already in its receive ready (higher current-drawing) state. The method performs strategic measurements of the receive signal level in order to determine if it is likely that the HPLMN has become available again. If the probability is high that the HPLMN has become available, further data is gathered on the likely available channel. Once the channel is identified, the MS begins the camping procedure to register on the HPLMN.

Torabi (EP 1076463 A2) teaches a Supporting Network for telecommunications systems is inter-connected with the visited wireless communications network and offers a virtual home environment for subscriber requested services to subscribers' mobile terminals that are roaming within the wireless communication system. The Supporting Network treats the service provider concept as a complete network entity and not necessarily as a single or simple service platform that is bounded by the physical extent of the service platform. The deployment of the Supporting Network is possible in 3rd

Generation wireless communications networks, 1 and 2 Generation wireless communications networks, as well as in wireline communications networks. An essential service requirement is that roaming wireless subscribers should be able to use their mobile terminals and obtain the services for which they have subscribed, in different visited wireless communications networks, regardless of the subscribers' location in the wireless communication systems. The Supporting Network for telecommunication systems provides the desired services to the mobile subscriber terminal, directly through the inter-connection of the visited communications network with the Supporting Network. The network inter-connection is affected by the use of a unique Network-to-Network Interface protocol that enables a Supporting Network operator to become a purveyor of third generation mobile telecommunications services to subscribers who are presently served by wireless communications networks that are incapable of providing these services.

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

Art Unit: 2618

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Janelle N. Young whose telephone number is (571) 272-2836. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday: 8:30 am through 4:00 pm.

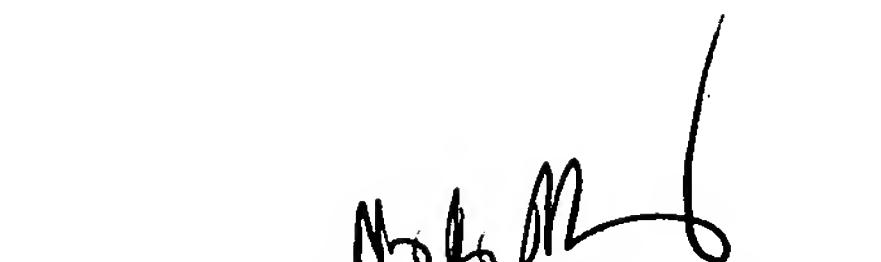
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nay Maung can be reached on (571) 272-7882. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Application/Control Number: 10/788,715
Art Unit: 2618

Page 27

JNY
March 21, 2007


NAY MAUNG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER